

What is claimed is:

SUB  
A1  
~~1. A water-decomposable fibrous sheet comprising, water-dispersible fibers having a fiber length of at most 20 mm, and a gel compound.~~

2. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 1, wherein the gel compound is formed from colloidal particulates and an electrolyte.

3. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 2, wherein the colloidal particulates are colloidal silica.

4. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 3, which has a colloidal silica content of from 0.25 g to 25 g in terms of silicic acid anhydride, relative to 100 g of the fibers.

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A2  
~~5. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 3, which contains an aqueous solution infiltrated thereinto and the aqueous solution contains at least 0.2 % by mass of the electrolyte.~~

6. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 1, which further contains a binder for binding the fibers to each other.

7. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 6, wherein the binder is at least one compound selected from a group consisting of alkyl celluloses, carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, modified polyvinyl alcohols,

sodium polyacrylate, sodium alginate, polyethylene oxide, starch, and modified starches.

8. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 6, wherein a layer containing the binder and the colloidal silica is formed on the surface of a fibrous layer of the water-dispersible fibers.

9. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 6, wherein a layer of the binder is formed on the surface of a fibrous layer of the water-dispersible fibers containing the colloidal silica.

10. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 6, which contains the colloidal silica and the binder in a fibrous layer of the water-dispersible fibers.

11. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 8, wherein the fibrous layer is of a water-decomposable non-woven fabric having been subjected to water-jetting treatment.

12. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 9, wherein the fibrous layer is of a water-decomposable non-woven fabric having been subjected to water-jetting treatment.

13. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 10, wherein the fibrous layer is of a water-decomposable non-woven fabric having been subjected to water-jetting treatment.

14. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 8, wherein the fibrous layer is of a water-decomposable paper having been prepared in a paper-making process.

15. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 9, wherein the fibrous layer is of a water-decomposable paper having been prepared in a paper-making process.

16. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 10, wherein the fibrous layer is of a water-decomposable paper having been prepared in a paper-making process.

17. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 1, wherein a weight of the fibers falls from 30 to 80 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

18. The water-decomposable fibrous sheet as set forth in claim 1, which has a degree of decomposition in water of at most 200 seconds measured in wet according to JIS P-4501, a strength at break in dry of at least 1400 g/25 mm, and a strength at break in wet of at least 150 g/25 mm.